

## Exhibit A

Express Mail Label No.: EV139599977US  
Date of Deposit: October 16, 2002

Attorney Docket No. 22058-514CIP

### ASSIGNMENT

I, Marsha Wills-Karp, (hereinafter referred to as the ASSIGNOR), for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby assign, sell and transfer to The Johns Hopkins University, a corporation of the State of Maryland, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD and its successors, assigns and legal representatives, all hereinafter referred to as the ASSIGNEE: (1) my entire right, title and interest for the United States and in all countries, in and to any and all inventions, discoveries and applications which are disclosed in the application for United States Letters Patent entitled:

#### CYTOKINE RECEPTOR CHAIN

filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 14, 1998 and assigned Serial No. 09/211,335, including any renewals, revivals, reissues, reexaminations, extensions, continuations and divisions thereof and any substitute applications therefor; (2) the full and complete right to file patent applications in the name of the ASSIGNEE, its designee, or in my/our names at the ASSIGNEE, or its designee's election, on the aforesaid inventions, discoveries and applications in all countries of the world; (3) the entire right, title and interest in and to any Letters Patent which may issue thereon in the United States or in any country, and any renewals, revivals, reissues, reexaminations and extensions thereof, and any patents of confirmation, registration and importation of the same; and (4) the entire right, title and interest in all Convention and Treaty Rights of all kinds thereon, including without limitation all rights of priority in any country of the world, in and to the above inventions, discoveries and applications.

I hereby authorize and request the competent authorities to grant and to issue any and all such Letters Patent in the United States and throughout the world to the ASSIGNEE of the entire right, title and interest therein, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by me/us had this assignment, sale and transfer not been made.

I agree, at any time, upon the request of the ASSIGNEE, to execute and to deliver to the ASSIGNEE any additional applications for patents for said inventions and discoveries, or any part or parts thereof, and any applications for patents of confirmation, registration and importation based on any Letters Patent issuing on said inventions, discoveries, or applications and divisions, continuations, renewals, revivals, reissues, reexaminations and extensions thereof.

I further agree at any time to execute and to deliver upon request of the ASSIGNEE such additional documents, if any, as are necessary or desirable to secure patent protection on said inventions, discoveries and applications throughout all countries of the world, and otherwise to do the necessary to give full effect to and to perfect the rights of the ASSIGNEE under this Assignment, including the execution, delivery and procurement of any and all further documents evidencing this assignment, transfer and sale as may be necessary or desirable.

I hereby covenant that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be made or entered into which would conflict with this assignment.

I further covenant that ASSIGNEE will, upon its request, be provided promptly with all pertinent facts and documents relating to said invention and said Letters Patent and legal equivalents as may be known and accessible to ASSIGNOR and will testify as to the same in any interference, litigation or proceeding related thereto and will promptly execute and deliver to ASSIGNEE or its legal representatives any and all papers, instruments or affidavits required to apply for, obtain, maintain, issue and enforce said application, said invention and said Letters Patent and said equivalents thereof which may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes thereof.

Date: 9-23-02

Marsha Wills Karp  
Signature of: **Marsha Wills-Karp**

State of Ohio

County of Hamilton

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2002

John A. Maybury  
Notary Public  
JOHN A. MAYBURY  
Notary Public, State of Ohio  
My commission expires My Commission Expires Oct. 2, 2002

TRA 1594067v1



UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND  
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JUNE 19, 2003

PTAS

Under Secretary of Commerce For Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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RECORDATION DATE: 02/07/2003

REEL/FRAME: 013743/0879  
NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:

WILLS-KARP, MARSHA

DOC DATE: 09/23/2002

ASSIGNEE:

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SERIAL NUMBER: 09211335

FILING DATE: 12/14/1998

PATENT NUMBER:

ISSUE DATE:

SAUNDRA BALLENGER, EXAMINER  
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION  
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